



ISSUE FOUR



EVAN NARCISSE - MIGUEL MENDONÇA - WIL QUINTANA

BATMAN *Static* BEYOND



13+
TEEN



WRITTEN BY EISNER AWARD WINNER GREG RUCKA • ART BY DaNi

NEXT
LEVEL

MARCH

BATWOMAN #1

© & TM DC.

DAUGHTER. SISTER. SOLDIER. HERO.

MELVIN,
JUST STOP FOR
ONE SECOND AND
WE CAN--

STOP
CALLING ME
THAT!

MY NAME IS
SHUTDOWN!



"YOU SHOULD BE OUT OF COMMISSION AFTER THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU!"*

*BACK IN BATMAN/STATIC: BEYOND ISSUE 2! --MD

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE DOESN'T EVEN *UNDERSTAND* THEIR OWN POWERS.

① He's got me beat on speed but his maneuvering sucks. Might be able to catch him.

THE FOLKS AT THE TOMORROW INSTITUTE CAN HELP--

DON'T YOU GET IT?! ALL I NEED TO KNOW IS THINGS *BREAK* WHEN I TOUCH THEM!

His disruption aura detonated that solar battery!

NO!

SOONER OR LATER, YOU'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF CHARGE.

WHEN YOU DO, I'LL TOUCH YOU DIRECTLY AND PULL THE PLUG FOR GOOD...



"...JUST LIKE
I DID WITH
BATMAN!"

OUR INTEL SHOWS
A SUB-BASEMENT BENEATH
THIS FLOOR. LOOK FOR THE
ACCESSSS POINT.

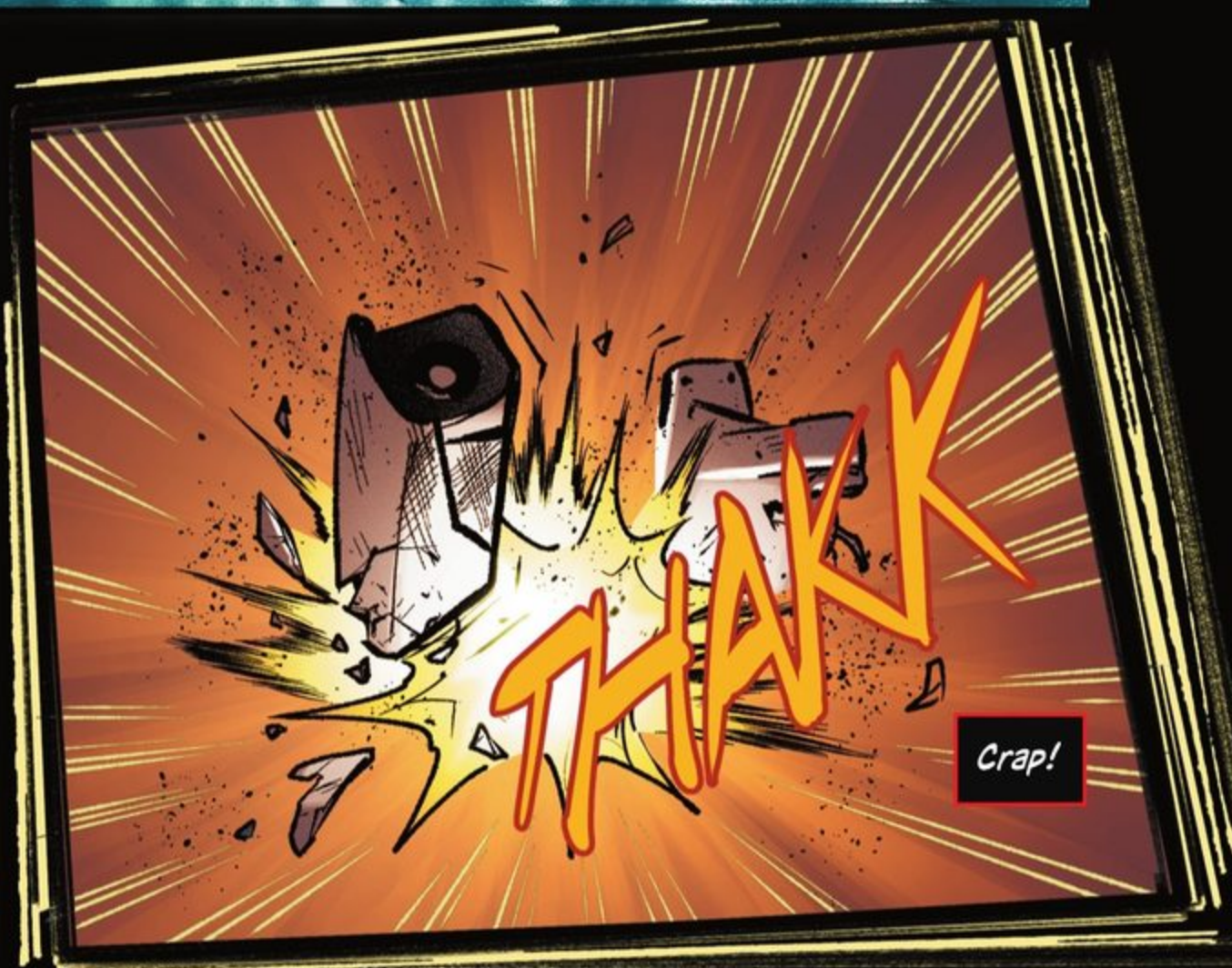
Okay, McGinnis, Kobra's
broken into a secret
WayneTech vault during
a global blackout.

Don't know what they're
looking for but I can't let
a terrorist cult get their
hands on anything inside.

Only question is,
how do I stop
this many guys
with no Batsuit?



SKFF



Crap!



WHA--?!

SPREAD OUT AND
INVESTIGATE!

Don't look up,
don't look up...



UP
THERE!



BRAKKA

BRAKKA



YOU'RE DOING THIS ALL *WRONG*, BABY BAT.

WHA--?

THE INTRUDER ISSS OVER HERE!



THAT MESSY CHOKEHOLD WORKED OUTSIDE BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT *NOBODY* WOULD SHOW.

UNNGH!



BUT THEY KNOW YOU'RE HERE NOW.



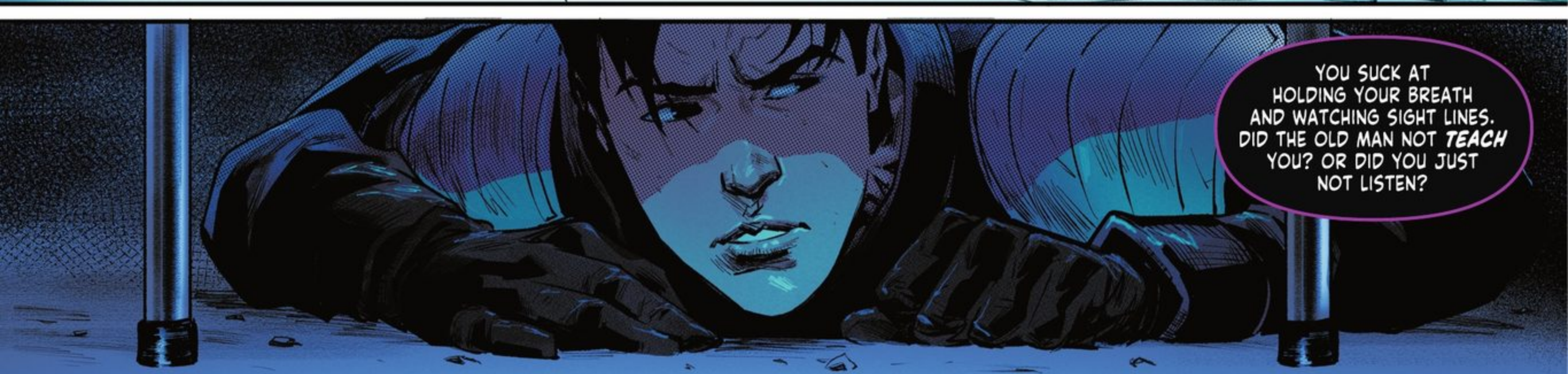
IF THEY HAD INFRARED, YOU'D BE A *GONER*.



WHO THE SPROCK ARE YOU?!

SHHHH. RIGHT NOW, I'M THE GUY WHO'S GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE ALIVE.

THAT FANCY BATSuit LEFT YOU SLIPPING ON YOUR *STEALTH* GAME.



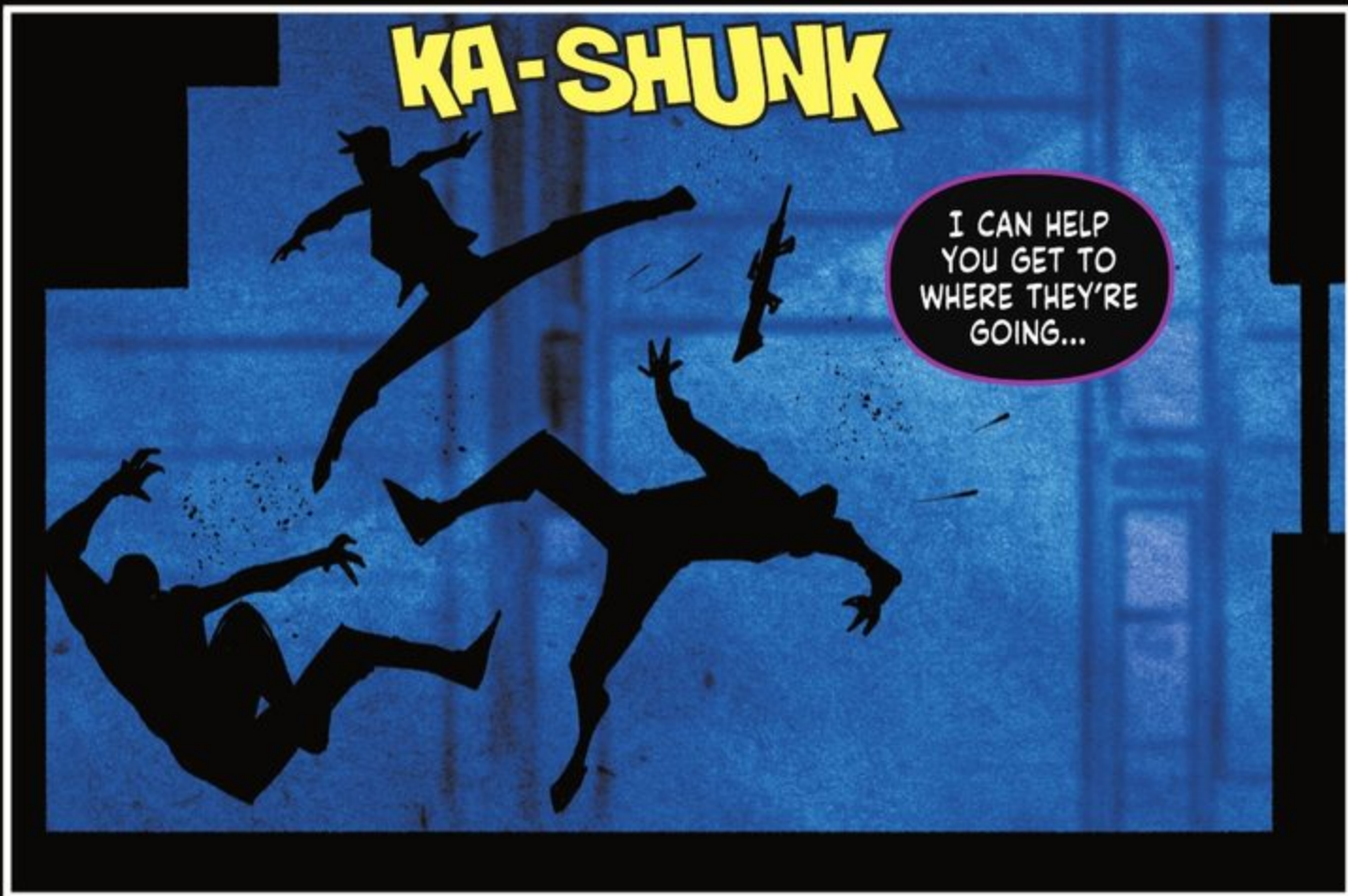
YOU SUCK AT HOLDING YOUR BREATH AND WATCHING SIGHT LINES. DID THE OLD MAN NOT *TEACH* YOU? OR DID YOU JUST NOT LISTEN?



NUMBER 1, WE'VE FOUND ENTRY TO THE SUB-BASEMENT!

WE WILL **CAPTURE** THE PRIZE! THE REST OF YOU STAY BEHIND AND ELIMINATE THE INTRUDER!

UH-OH! NO WAY YOU'RE SNEAKING IN THERE. IT'S SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME. WHAT YOU GONNA DO, BABY BAT?



KA-SHUNK

I CAN HELP YOU GET TO WHERE THEY'RE GOING...



URRRRRGGH!

...BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO ASK **NICELY**.



DON'T WORRY, THIS ISN'T A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.

DAMMIT!

HEH, HE PROBABLY WISHES HE WERE ME.



SIGH...

PLEASE... WHOEVER YOU ARE... I NEED YOUR HELP.



NO WAY, IS THAT--?

YOU'RE WELCOME, BABY BAT. NOW **SUIT UP** AND GET TO WORK.

NUMBER 1, THERE'S
A SELF-DESTRUCT CHARGE
EMBEDDED IN THE LOCK
MECHANISM!

ENOUGH
EXPLOSIVE TO TAKE
DOWN THIS ENTIRE
STRUCTURE!

PROCEED!
IF KOBRA CANNOT HAVE
WHAT LIES WITHIN, NO
ONE CAN!

EH?!
I DIDN'T
EVEN--?

CHREEEE...

HA! THE
GODSSSS
SMILE UPON
US!

YESSSSS,
THESE ARE THE *TOOLS*
WE NEED TO USHER IN
THE KALI-YUGA!

SORRY,
THIS STUFF'S
SPOKEN
FOR.





"...A LITTLE TASTE OF Q-JUICE THAT'S FAR AWAY FROM HOME."

RICHIE, YOU GONNA SUIT UP AND **JUMP IN** OR WHAT?

MY ARMOR GOT **FRIED** LAST TIME WE FACED THIS GUY. HE DISRUPTS THE FLOW OF ENERGY IN ANYTHING HE TOUCHES.



FLY AROUND ALL YOU WANT...

Not enough juice to form a shield! Gotta grab something!



...I CAN **STILL** BRING YOU DOWN!

UNFFF!



THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

WE CAN'T LET SHUTDOWN NEAR THE KIDS!



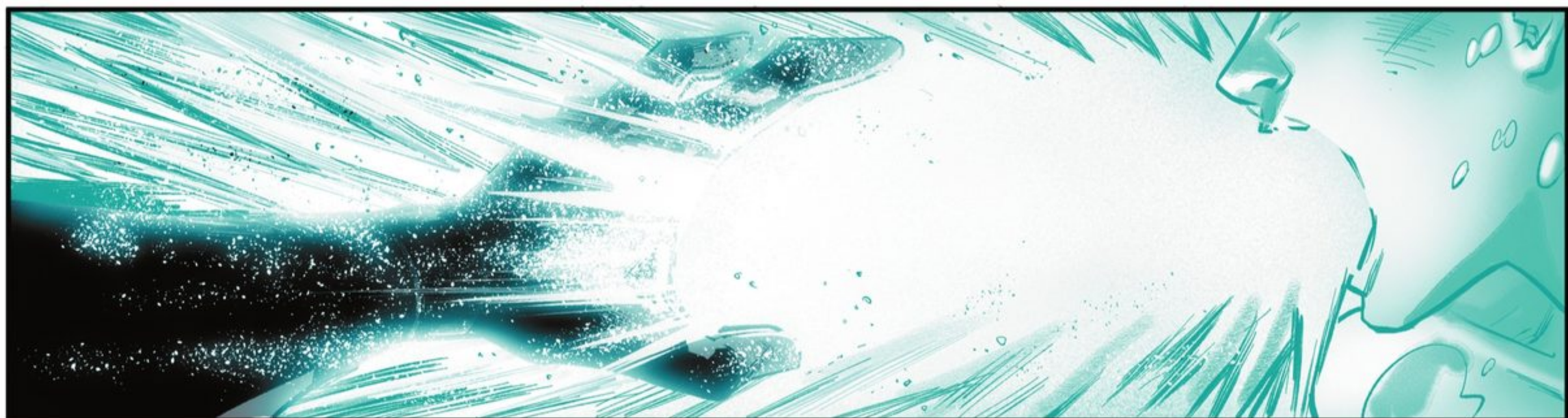
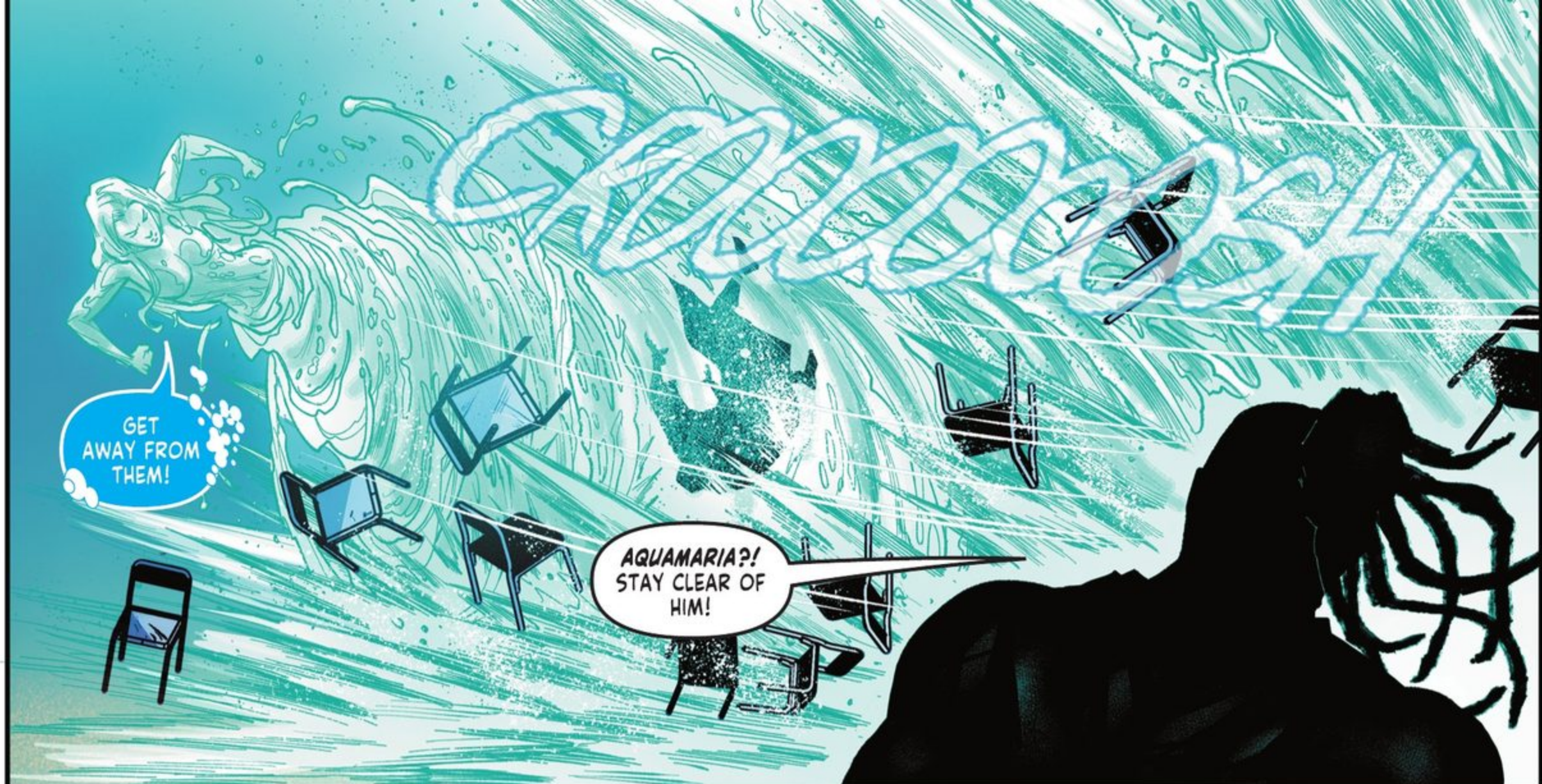
MR. STATIC! I CAN HELP!



JOEY! NO! KEEP SHIELDING YOUR CLASSMATES AND EVERYONE ELSE! THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT!

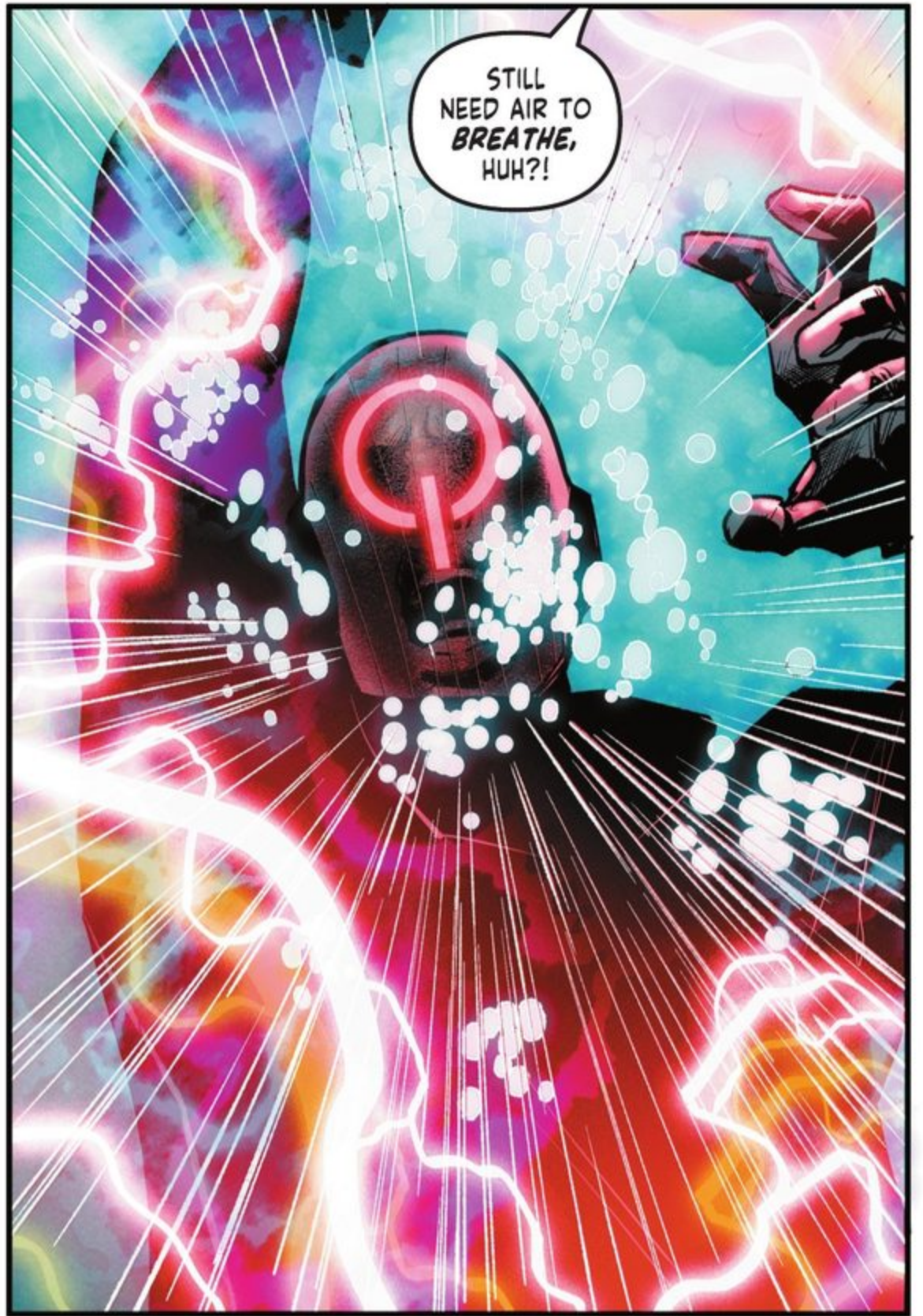


BUT WHO'S GOING TO PROTECT YOU?!



Whoa! Maria is her power so maybe there's nothing for him to disrupt! Or he just doesn't understand how?!







CHANCELLOR EVANS!
I THINK THE **GRADUATION PRESENTS** COULD HELP ME OUT HERE!

GRADUATION PRESENTS?



HE MUST MEAN THE **INHIBITOR BRACELETS**. THEY'RE BUILT OFF DECADES OF Q-JUICE RESEARCH AND CAN **DEACTIVATE** THE POWERS OF MOST BANG BABIES.

OUR STUDENTS USE THEM DURING **TRAINING** AND SYMBOLICALLY GIFT THEM BACK TO THE SCHOOL WHEN THEY GRADUATE.



WE KEEP THEM IN FARADAY CAGES--WHATEVER CAUSED THE **BLACKOUT** DIDN'T AFFECT THEM.

THE **CAUSE** OF THE BLACKOUT IS UP THERE CHASING STATIC!



GOT IT. I'LL **STRETCH** UP THERE AND GET THESE TO--

NO! WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF SHUTDOWN TOUCHES YOU! I HAVE A BETTER IDEA...



OKAY, WE'VE GOT TIMERS SET SO THE BRACELETS SHOULD **ACTIVATE** IN MID-AIR!

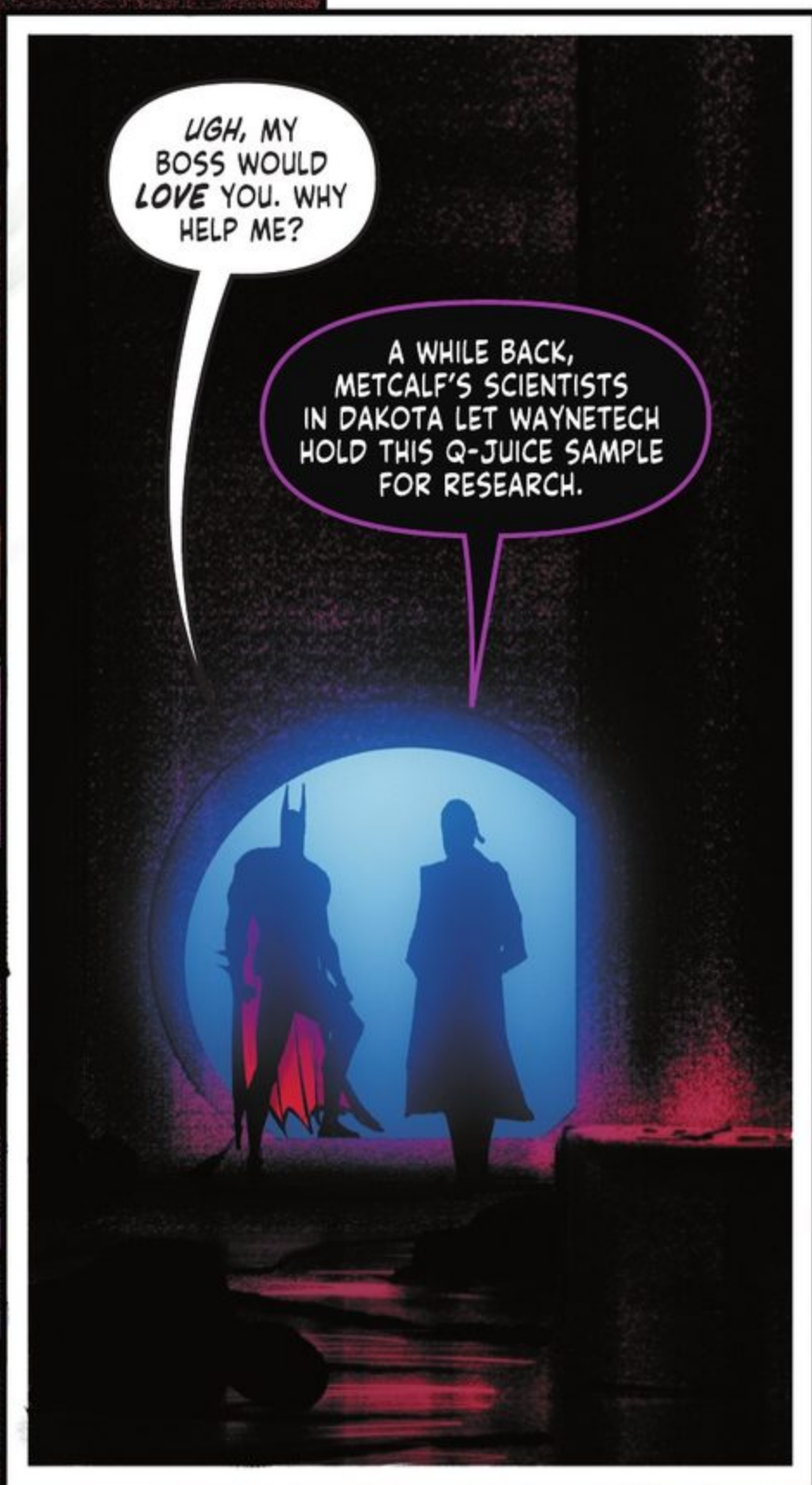
C'MON, LET'S DO THIS!



OKAY, *DUDE OF DARKNESS*, YOU GET THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT SINCE YOU HELPED ME. BUT HOW EXACTLY DO YOU KNOW MY WHOLE *BATMAN* DEAL?

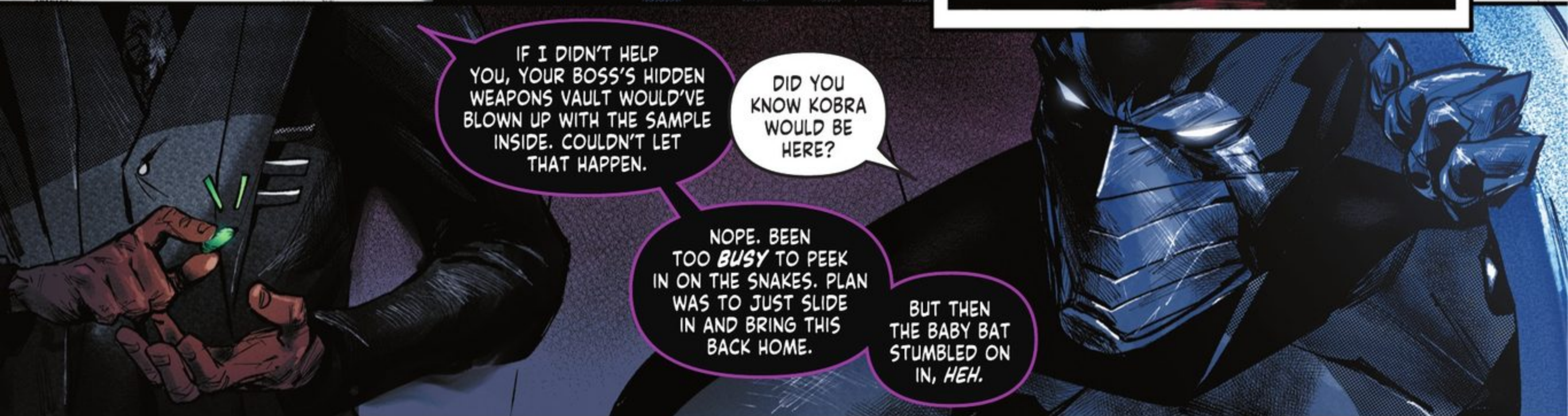
NAME'S *EBON*. AS FOR YOUR "WHOLE DEAL," NOBODY CAN KEEP SECRETS FROM SOMEONE WHO MOVES THROUGH SHADOWS.

YOU'D KNOW THAT IF YOUR STEALTH GAME WASN'T SO *WACK*.



UGH, MY BOSS WOULD *LOVE* YOU. WHY HELP ME?

A WHILE BACK, METCALF'S SCIENTISTS IN DAKOTA LET WAYNETECH HOLD THIS Q-JUICE SAMPLE FOR RESEARCH.



IF I DIDN'T HELP YOU, YOUR BOSS'S HIDDEN WEAPONS VAULT WOULD'VE BLOWN UP WITH THE SAMPLE INSIDE. COULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

DID YOU KNOW KOBRA WOULD BE HERE?

NOPE. BEEN TOO *BUSY* TO PEEK IN ON THE SNAKES. PLAN WAS TO JUST SLIDE IN AND BRING THIS BACK HOME.

BUT THEN THE BABY BAT STUMBLED ON IN, *HEH*.



BETTER GET THIS *BACK* TO DAKOTA. LET ME SCOPE OUT AN EXIT--



NO! GOTTA GET BACK...





SOON...

PROUD OF HOW Y'ALL HELD IT DOWN HERE, LI'L BRO.

THAT TWITCHY LITTLE DUDE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL WHERE HE SHOWS UP, BUT I SURE DIDN'T THINK HE'D COME THROUGH DAKOTA AGAIN.

WAIT, YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT MELVIN?!



ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT MY SPECIFIC VANTAGE POINT, BABY BAT.

SPYING FROM SHADOWS AS USUAL, HUH? IF YOU KNEW ALL THIS THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?

CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, MAN. BESIDES, YOU KNOW THE ONLY PRIORITY OVER HERE IS ME AND MINE.



BUT HE MIGHT POP OUT IN DAKOTA AGAIN, SO I'LL HELP Y'ALL... FOR NOW.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND MELVIN? I MEAN, SHUTDOWN...



THE KID'S EMOTIONS KEEP BOUNCING HIM AROUND BECAUSE HE'S NOT RIGHT WITH HIMSELF.

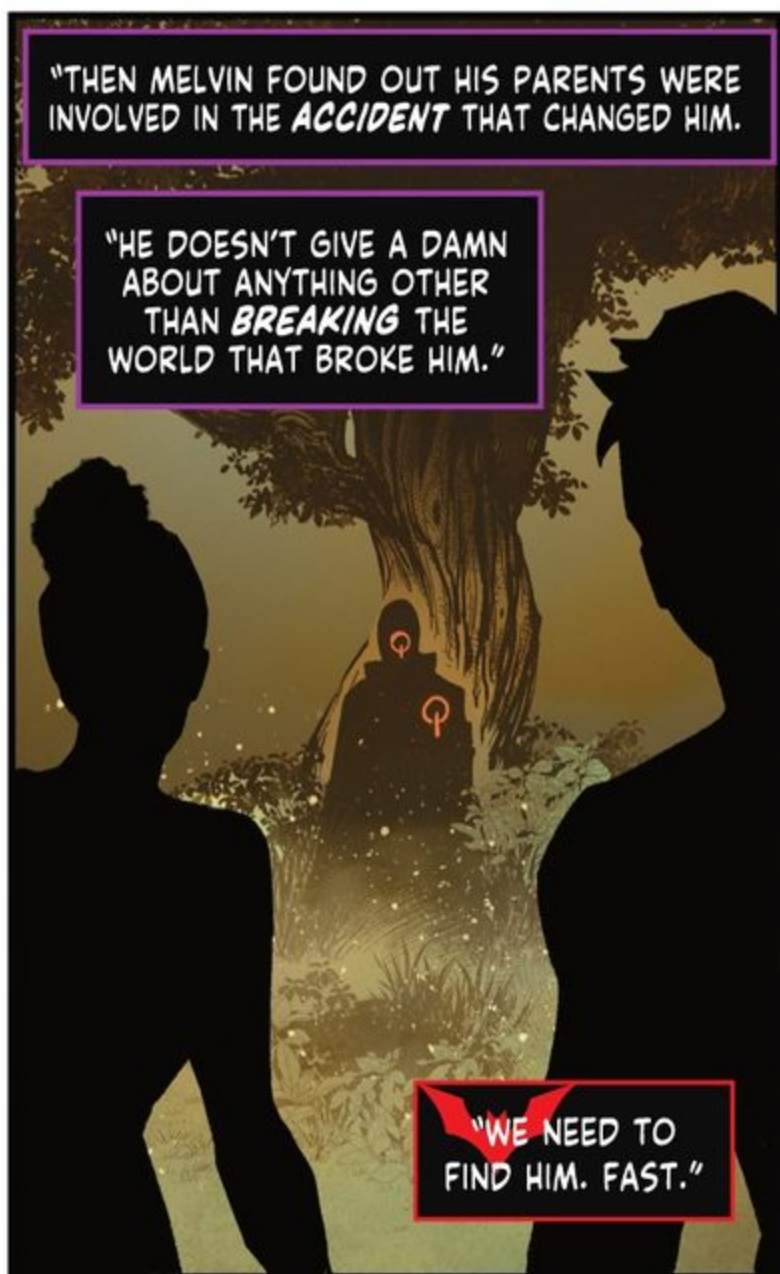
YOU MEAN HE HASN'T LEARNED TO CONTROL HIS POWERS?



NOT JUST THAT. HE'S FIGHTING WITH HIMSELF, PROBABLY HAS BEEN FOR A LONG TIME.

GREW UP IN A WORLD WHERE FOLKS GOT RICH OFF NOT CARING. ALL HE'S GOT IS ANGER.

CAN'T BLAME HIM REALLY. DEREK POWERS AND ALL THE BILLIONAIRE BUMS MADE KINDNESS AND CARE PREMIUM-TIER UPCHARGES. ANYBODY SHORT ON CREDIT GETS SCREWED.



"THEN MELVIN FOUND OUT HIS PARENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT THAT CHANGED HIM.

"HE DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN BREAKING THE WORLD THAT BROKE HIM."

"WE NEED TO FIND HIM. FAST."



INDEED. MEANWHILE, WE ALSO NEED A PLAN FOR TURNING THE LIGHTS BACK ON IN THE DKT.

FIGURE THIS MIGHT HELP.

THE DKT?

IT'S A NICKNAME FOR DAKOTA. AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A DETECTIVE?



MIGHT HAVE A PLAN.

I ALREADY KNOW I CAN'T TALK YOU OUT OF WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING.

GOT SOMETHING AT METCALF'S E.M.P. BUNKER THAT COULD HELP. CAN YOU TAKE US THERE, EBON?



MORE THAN A NEW LOOK, ISN'T IT? I CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE.



THIS SUIT'S GOT NANO-STABILIZER PANELS WOVEN IN. MADE IT A WHILE BACK IN CASE YOU--



--OVERCHARGE MY ABILITIES AND LOSE CONTROL. DAMNED IRONIC TO BE WEARING IT NOW WHEN THE *OPPOSITE'S* HAPPENING.

EBON SAID THAT Q-JUICE SAMPLE WAS *INERT*. HOW'S IT GOING TO HELP?

ONE THING WE NOTICED STUDYING Q-JUICE OVER THE YEARS IS THAT IT RANDOMLY GOES INERT OUTSIDE DAKOTA CITY LIMITS. STILL DON'T KNOW WHY.

TOOK US A WHILE TO FIGURE A *STABILIZATION PROTOCOL* FOR THE Q-GRID STATIONS AND THE SHOCKWAVE'S FASTER-THAN-LIGHT ENGINE.



THIS STUFF IS BASICALLY LIQUID *POSSIBILITY*.



"OUR PHYSICAL BODIES MAKE POWERFUL *IMMATERIAL* THINGS, LIKE IDEAS AND FEELINGS.



"AND THOSE IMMATERIAL THINGS, AND OTHERS, HAVE *PHYSICAL* EFFECTS ON OUR BODIES.



"ONE THEORY IS THAT CONTACT WITH HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS ALLOWS Q-JUICE TO *BRIDGE THE GAP* BETWEEN MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL.

"IT THEN MANIFESTS THE UNIVERSE'S ANSWERS TO INNATE DESIRES THAT PEOPLE MAY NOT EVEN BE *CONSCIOUS* OF.

"THE WILD *VARIATION* OF EFFECTS THAT COME WITH Q-JUICE EXPOSURE HAPPENS BECAUSE WE ALL WANT DIFFERENT THINGS.



"MY DAD USED TO SAY I WANTED ENOUGH *ENERGY* TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS I COULD, BECAUSE I WAS SO ANGRY AT THE WAY THINGS WERE.

"YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN Q-JUICE HIT *ME*.



THIS SAMPLE WAS STILL *ACTIVE* WHEN WE SENT IT TO GOTHAM BUT WAYNETECH RESEARCHERS COULDN'T DETECT ANY ENERGY SIGNATURE.

AND THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED?

TOUGH TO SAY, WITH HOW *UNPREDICTABLE* THIS STUFF IS. BUT IT WASN'T EXPOSED TO SHUTDOWN'S DISRUPTION SO IT MIGHT STILL BE VIABLE.



I *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO JUMPSTART IT--

DUDE, NO! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT DOUBLE Q-EXPOSURE WILL DO TO YOU! AND SHUTDOWN'S DISRUPTION AURA HAS *MESSED* WITH YOUR CAPACITY AND CONTROL!



THAT STICKY
DISRUPTION AURA'S
THE KEY TO THIS, ACTUALLY.
THE INHIBITORS PICKED UP
SHUTDOWN'S ENERGY
SIGNATURE.

IF I CAN
THREAD ENERGY INTO
THE DISRUPTION AURA
THROUGH THE Q-JUICE,
IT SHOULD ACT AS
AN AMPLIFIER **AND**
A SHIELD--



--AND YOU'LL NEGATE
SHUTDOWN'S AURA, RE-ENERGIZE
THE Q-JUICE, AND THE FEEDBACK
LOOP **SHOULD** GET YOU BACK
TO FULL POWER.

OR YOU'LL LOSE YOUR
POWERS **COMPLETELY** IF
YOU'RE WRONG!



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS
SAYING THAT Q-JUICE IS A DOOR TO
THE IMPOSSIBLE, RICHIE. AND **THAT'S**
WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW.



A DOOR TO
THE IMPOSSIBLE.



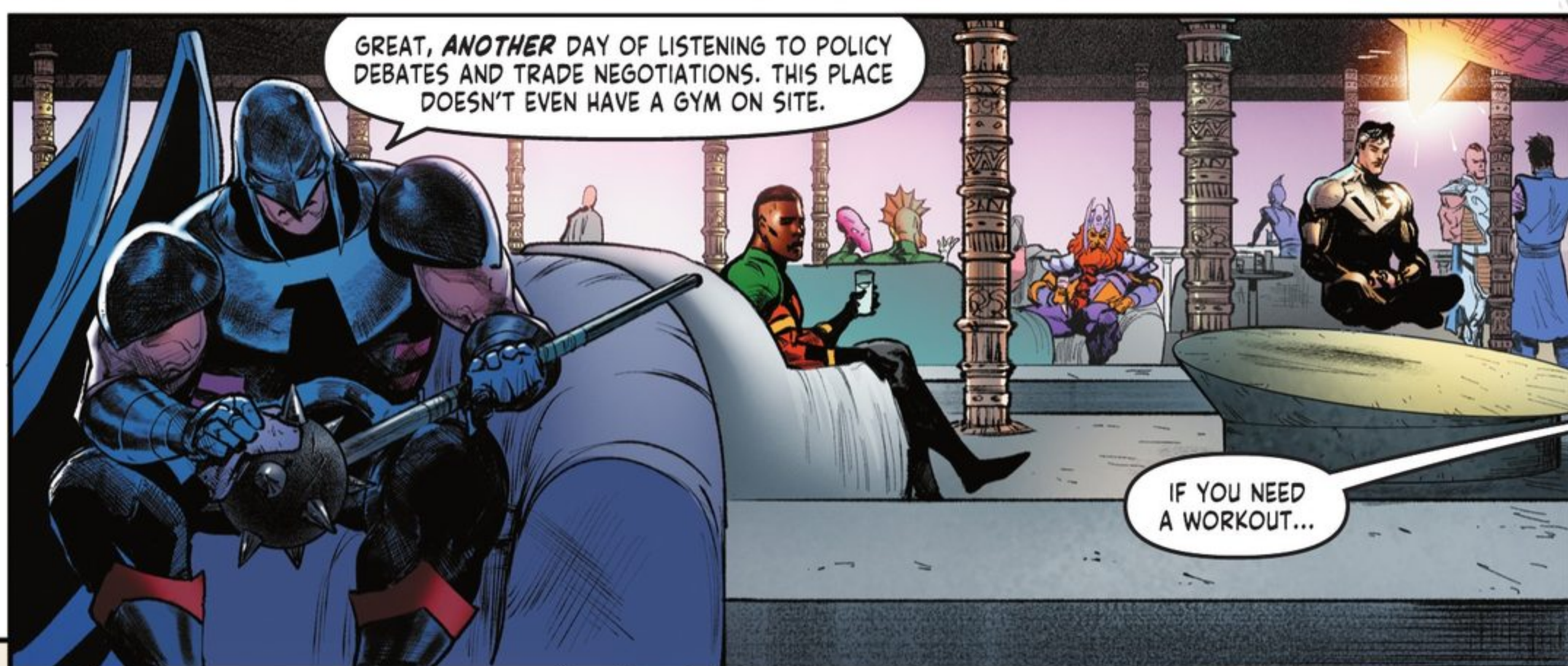
COOPERATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DEEP SPACE.

FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN HERE *FOREVER*, ICON. DO THESE KINDS OF DELIBERATIONS USUALLY TAKE THIS LONG?

THE VOTE ON EARTH JOINING THE COOPERATIVE IS NOT THE *ONLY* ITEM ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA, WARHAWK.

...AND SO IT IS AGREED THAT A JOINT DETACHMENT OF COOPERATIVE SECURITY FORCES WILL ASSIST IN *RELOCATING* REFUGEES FROM THE VEGA SYSTEM TO SANCTUARIES ON MEMBER WORLDS.

COUNCIL WILL ADJOURN FOR THIS SOLAR CYCLE. WE WILL *RECONVENE* AT STAR-SYNC TOMORROW.



GREAT, *ANOTHER* DAY OF LISTENING TO POLICY DEBATES AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS PLACE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A GYM ON SITE.

IF YOU NEED A WORKOUT...

...WE COULD DO SOME OF YOUR DAD'S ZERO-G COMBAT DRILLS.

MOM?! I MEAN, *COUNCILLOR* SHAYERA HOL!

WE'RE NOT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, REX. NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.

UM, OKAY...I-*IS* DAD WITH YOU?



I'M AFRAID NOT. SOME COOPERATIVE MEMBER WORLDS STILL HOLD A *GRUDGE* AGAINST EARTH'S *GREEN LANTERN*, EVEN THOUGH JOHN'S RETIRED.

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE *YOU* TOOK ON A JOB WITH SO MANY RULES AND REGULATIONS.

ALLOW KAL AND I TO GIVE YOU TWO SOME PRIVACY, SHAYERA.

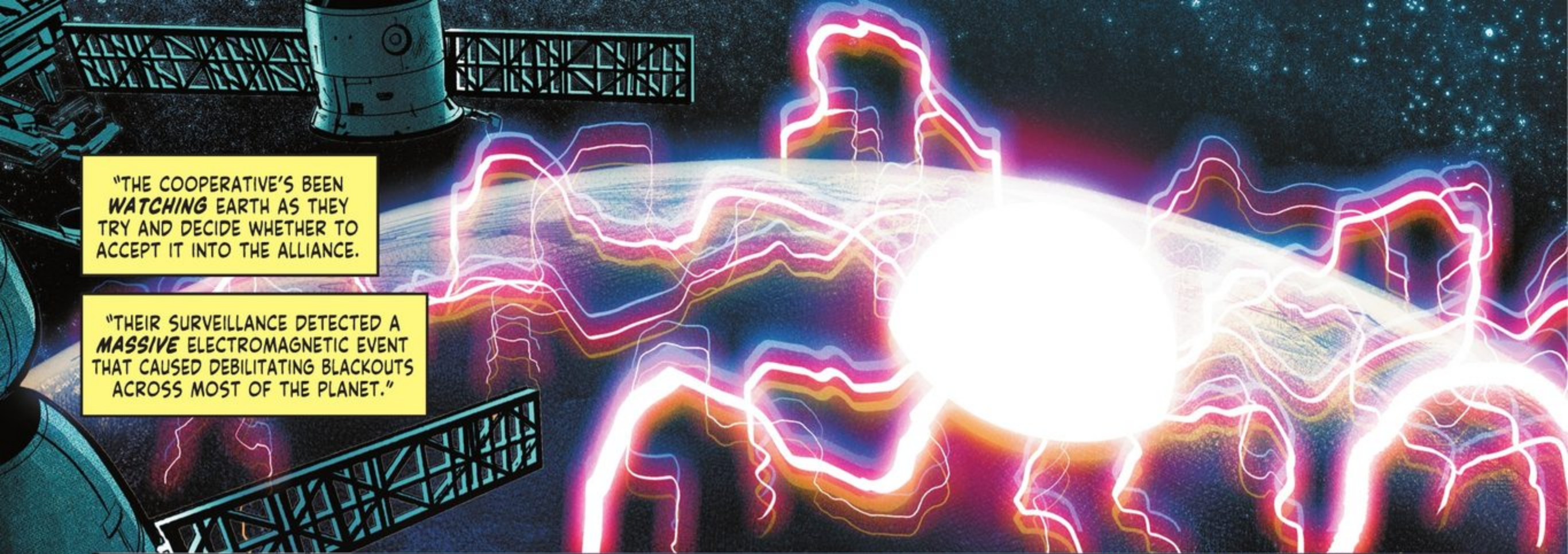


"BEING PART OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE REALLY MADE ME THINK ABOUT DOING *MORE* TO HELP SECURE PEACE ACROSS THE COSMOS...

"ESPECIALLY AFTER THANAGAR'S ATTEMPTED INVASION OF EARTH. EARTH'S STATUS AS AN UNALIGNED PLANET MAKES IT VULNERABLE.



THAT'S WHY I'M HERE ACTUALLY. *SOMETHING'S WRONG* ON EARTH.



"THE COOPERATIVE'S BEEN **WATCHING** EARTH AS THEY TRY AND DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT IT INTO THE ALLIANCE.

"THEIR SURVEILLANCE DETECTED A **MASSIVE** ELECTROMAGNETIC EVENT THAT CAUSED DEBILITATING BLACKOUTS ACROSS MOST OF THE PLANET."



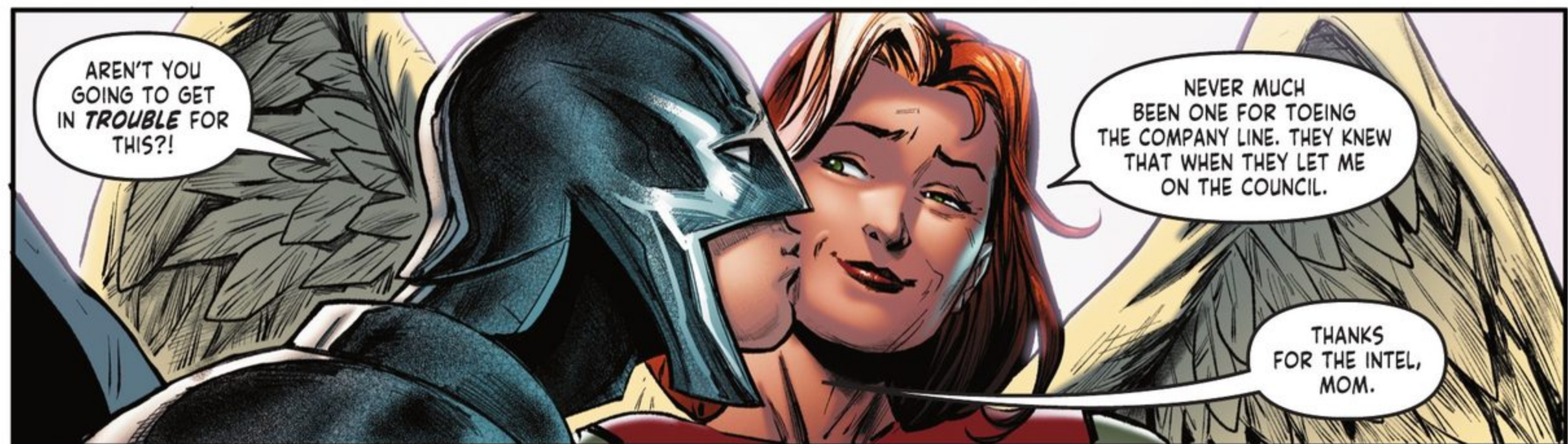
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?!

A FEW DAYS AGO, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL. I CAN'T TELL HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT THE COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS--



"AND **THEY** DIDN'T TELL US?!"

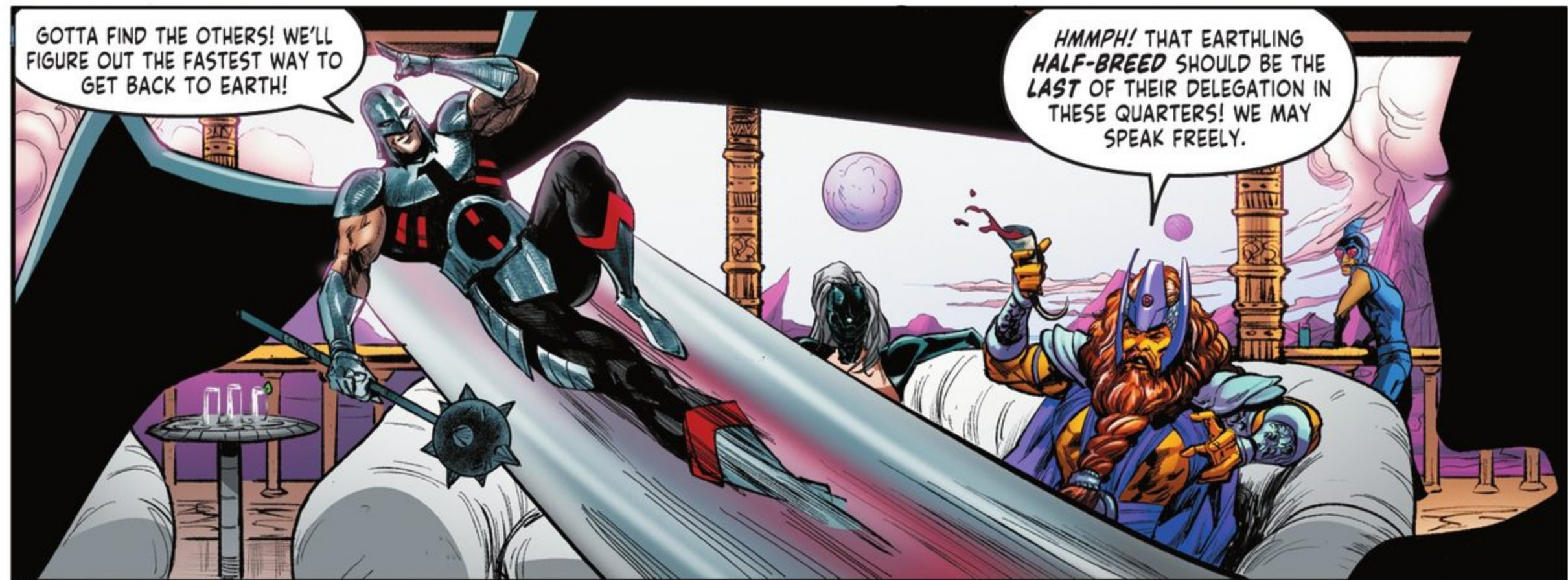
"I ARGUED FOR IT...BUT THE COOPERATIVE DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH NON-ALLIED PLANETS UNLESS THEY POSE A THREAT TO GALACTIC ORDER."



AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET IN **TROUBLE** FOR THIS?!

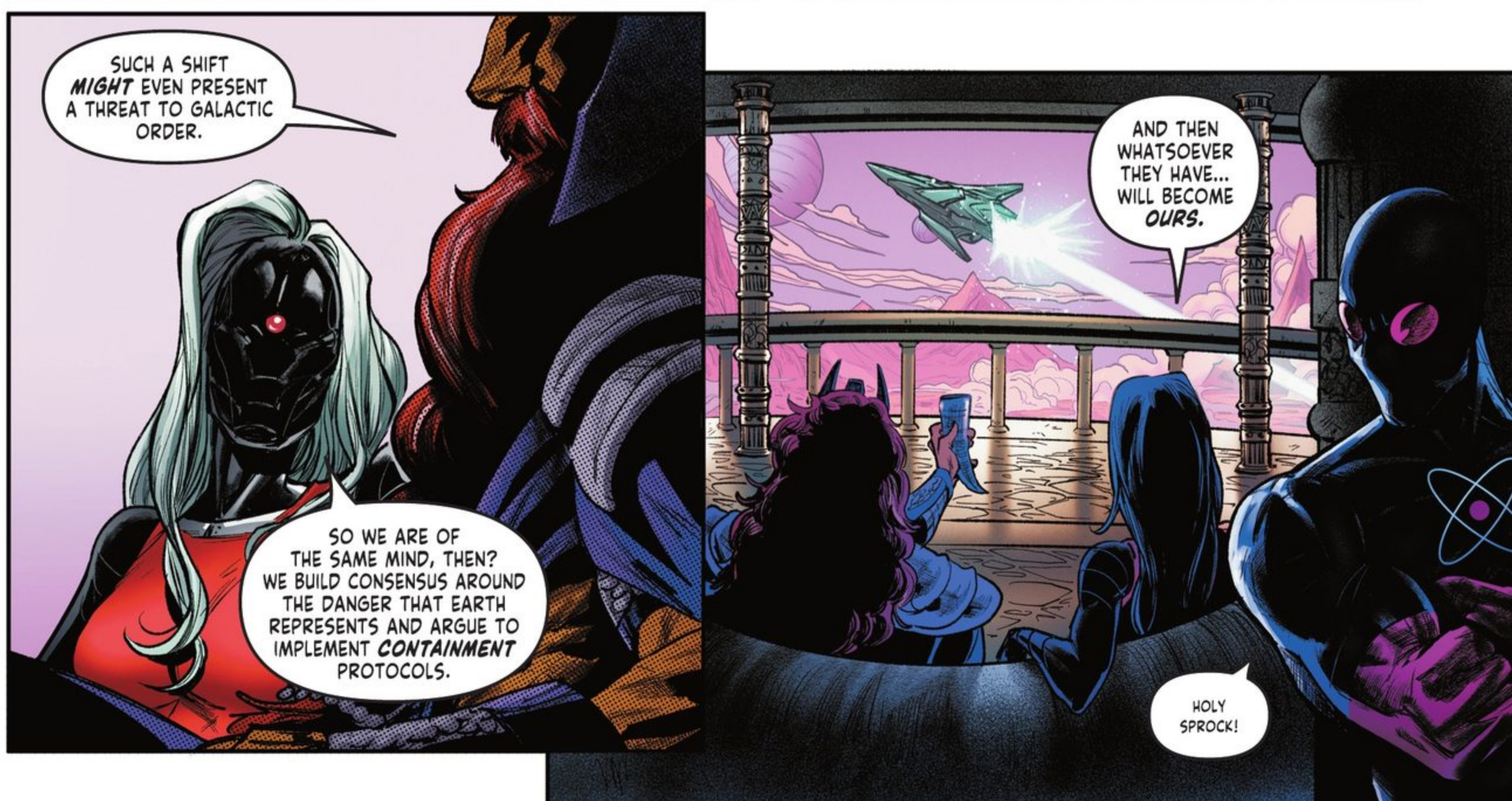
NEVER MUCH BEEN ONE FOR TOEING THE COMPANY LINE. THEY KNEW THAT WHEN THEY LET ME ON THE COUNCIL.

THANKS FOR THE INTEL, MOM.



GOTTA FIND THE OTHERS! WE'LL FIGURE OUT THE FASTEST WAY TO GET BACK TO EARTH!

HMMPH! THAT EARTHLING **HALF-BREED** SHOULD BE THE **LAST** OF THEIR DELEGATION IN THESE QUARTERS! WE MAY SPEAK FREELY.





SO, WHEN'S
THIS WHOLE Q-JUICE
RE-ENERGIZATION
PROCESS GOING TO
START?



I JUST
FINISHED.



DAMMIT,
VIRGIL! I *TOLD*
YOU THIS WAS
TOO--



WHOA!
ELECTRICITY'S
BACK?!

RAAAAH!

RRR
NNGG



DON'T GET
TOO EXCITED.
THIS IS JUST
A *LOCALIZED*
EFFECT.

BUT YOU'LL JUST
BE ABLE TO ZAP ALL THE
POWER STATIONS BACK TO LIFE,
RIGHT? YOU'VE GOT YOUR
JUICE BACK NOW...

NOT QUITE. WE
CAN'T *SCRUB* SHUTDOWN'S
DISRUPTION AURA OFF EARTH'S
POWER GRID WITHOUT ACCESS
TO THE SOURCE. *WE NEED*
TO FIND HIM.

"NO BIG DEAL...JUST GOTTA TRACK DOWN A METAHUMAN WHO TELEPORTS *WHENEVER* HE GETS UPSET. WHICH IS ALL THE TIME. OH, AND THERE'S STILL A GLOBAL BLACKOUT."

"EVEN IF WE CAN FIND HIM, THAT KID'S COMING APART AT THE SEAMS. ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO GET CLOSE TO HIM IS GOING TO GET *DISRUPTED* REAL QUICK."



VIRGIL HAWKINS,
A.K.A. STATIC! YOU
ARE WANTED FOR
**CRIMES AGAINST
HUMANITY!** COME
PEACEFULLY WITH
THE AGENTS OF
CADMUS AND NO
ONE GETS HURT!

TO BE CONTINUED!

BATMAN *Static* BEYOND

HUMAN BATTERIES

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DENYS COWAN, AND MICHAEL DAVIS





ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN

**COLLECTED
EDITION
AVAILABLE IN
MARCH**

VOL. 2: SON OF THE DEMON



**THE MAN OF STEEL
FACES THE
DEMON WITHIN.**

Written by JASON AARON

Art by RAFA SANDOVAL and CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO

Cover art by RAFA SANDOVAL



THE Matriarch

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

The Matriarch has arrived in the pages of *Wonder Woman*, and she's here to change everything. Superstar writer Tom King reveals Diana's most ambitious villain yet, a royal force of nature with power to topple gods and heroes alike. As "The Wonder War" begins, this future-born conqueror promises an epic showdown that will redefine the Amazing Amazon's legacy.

What can you tell us about the creation of the Matriarch?

From the beginning my brilliant artist, Daniel Sampere, and I wanted to create a huge *Wonder Woman* villain that would be the focus of our arc. We very cleverly put her origin story on the very first page of the series, and nobody noticed, which was fun! We took 25 issues of story leading up to the launch of this character who is the pivotal villain of the whole series, and her name is the Matriarch.

How do you craft a villain worthy of Wonder Woman's legacy?

It's my chance to do a Lex Luthor. My chance to do a Joker. That's who the Matriarch is. People who are reading *Wonder Woman* today need an experience as big as the people who were reading *Batman* in the '30s or '40s. They deserve huge comics that aren't just looking backward, but looking forward.

What can fans expect as we head toward "The Wonder War"?

There's a lot more to come. We've been building on this. We created this character called the Sovereign, who may or may not be her father. You see her birth and the birth of Trinity around the same time. These two babies who start together becoming the greatest of adversaries in the future will be the driving force behind the comic. I couldn't be more excited for where this is going.

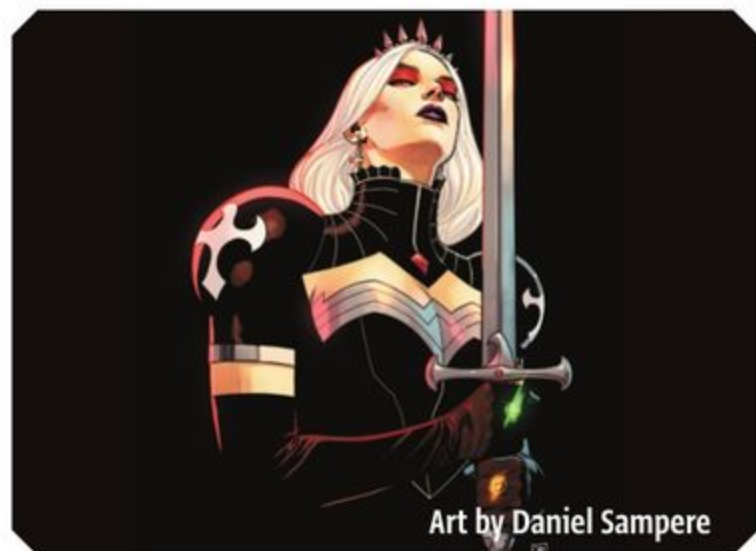
Can you share a bit about the character's design?

Daniel's design is perfect. I wanted her to look like an evil princess, or to have that sort of royalty to her. This look of "I've inherited the world and I can do anything."



Art by Jorge Fornés

What you started to see in issue #25, the big launch of this character, is she exists in the future. I was sort of inspired by the comics of my youth, where the great villains came from the future. In the future, she has left Themyscira, has conquered Earth, and has killed the Justice League. When you see each of their deaths, their last words to the Matriarch before they succumb to her total power are "Wonder Woman," who's the last hope against this villain.



Art by Daniel Sampere



Art by Daniel Sampere

DON'T MISS THE EPIC START OF "THE WONDER WAR" IN *Wonder Woman* #31, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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